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June 29, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR

Vice Admiral A. C. Davis, USN,
Director, The Joint Staff,
Department of Defense,
Room 2E 928,
The Pentagon.

The attached paper contains the State Department suggestions with respect to the U.S. position on the Command arrangements for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. As agreed at the State-JCS meeting on June 27, the suggested changes have been made in the paper originally prepared as an agreed minute of the JCS-State-U.K. meeting of June 19, as revised by the JCS. The first paragraph has been deleted, since the paper would no longer be an agreed minute.

In brief, the changes are:

(1) That the Allied Command be called the Supreme Allied Eastern Command in order to avoid the geographic implication that a NATO command is being imposed on the entire Middle East. It is felt that the suggested revised name would make it possible to deal with an enlarged geographical scope later.

(2) That the U.S. not commit itself to furnish U.S. forces to such Command.

(3) That the headquarters of the Allied Command should be in Cyprus.

(4) That the British continue their own Commander for the Middle East, that such

Commander

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Commander should be the same person as the Allied Commander, and that both headquarters should be in Cyprus.

(5) That the statement of purpose and nature of the Middle East Defense Board be somewhat expanded.

(6) That it be made clear that the program proposed will require careful diplomatic preparation.

John H. Ferguson

Attachment:

T.S. "Suggested U.S. Position ...", June 28, 1951, original.

S/P:JHFerguson:nrs

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SUGGESTED U.S. POSITION
WITH RESPECT TO
COMMAND IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
AND MIDDLE EAST

June 28, 1951

1. Greece and Turkey should be admitted as full members to NATO.

2. There should be a supreme Allied Eastern Command, on the headquarters of which would be included U.S., U.K., Commonwealth, French and Turkish officers. This headquarters would command such forces as the members of NATO and their associates made available to it, it being understood that this would not involve a commitment to furnish U.S. forces.

3. The Supreme Allied Eastern Command will be a NATO command. The Supreme Allied Eastern Commander will therefore be responsible to the Standing Group.

4. The Supreme Allied Eastern Commander should be a British officer. The U.S. will use their good offices to make this proposal acceptable to the Turks. Consideration should be given to offering the Turks the position of Allied Land Forces Commander of this command.

5. The headquarters of the Supreme Allied Eastern Commander should be located in Cyprus.

6. Greece will form part of SACEUR (Supreme Allied Command, Europe) but be represented at the Allied Eastern Command headquarters by a liaison mission.

7. Turkey will form part of SAEC (Supreme Allied Eastern Command) but will be represented at Headquarters, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, by a liaison mission.

8. In the Mediterranean the CinC, Allied Forces, Southern Europe (who is also CinC, U.S. Naval Forces Mediterranean),

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Mediterranean), and the CinC British Mediterranean Fleet will each control his own forces and bases and will be responsible for the security of his own sea communications, subject to such joint allocations of area responsibilities as may be mutually agreed upon from time to time. Each would maintain liaison at the other's Headquarters.

9. The British will continue to have a British Commander for the Middle East, who would presumably continue to command British and Commonwealth forces assigned to the Middle East. It is suggested that the Supreme Allied Eastern Commander, a Britisher, also hold the title of British Commander, Middle East. It is further suggested that the headquarters of the British Commander, Middle East be located in Cyprus.

10. In order to obtain the voluntary cooperation of Middle Eastern countries in the defense of the Middle East, there should be established a Middle East Defense Board, of which the U.S., U.K. and its associates, France and Turkey should be members, together with such Middle Eastern states as wish to become members, for the purpose of developing the maximum area cooperation on defense and supply problems. The Board would be the focus of efforts to improve indigenous defense capabilities of the area. It is suggested that the Board have a British chairman. While the headquarters of the Board should be located in Cyprus, it should probably hold meetings in the Middle Eastern area, and it is suggested that at least initially such meetings might be held in Turkey. The Board would initiate positive development

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development programs. The Board would act in an advisory and consultative capacity to the British Middle East Commander and the Supreme Allied Eastern Commander. The Board's members would be responsible to the governments participating in the Board.

11. The admission of Turkey to NATO is a prerequisite to the establishment of the Supreme Allied Eastern Command and the Middle East Defense Board.

12. The above program will require careful diplomatic preparation with all the states concerned in advance of public announcement.

S/P:JHFerguson/GLJones:dmh
6/28/51

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